Amendment to the Abstract:

The Abstract has been amended. A revised Abstract is attached.

ABSTRACT

When the routing function of ~~the present default~~ router ~~(11)~~ becomes disabled, a routing stop message is multicast to all terminals ~~(13)~~ and ~~other~~another router ~~(12)~~ in a LAN. If another router ~~(12)~~ can provide the routing function, a routing start message is multicast to all terminals ~~(13)~~ and the other router ~~(11)~~ in the LAN. This method allows the terminals ~~(13)~~ in the LAN to switch the default router at a predetermined timing according to both messages, thus minimizing the default router switching delay time and the packet loss.

Attachment

ABSTRACT

When the routing function of router becomes disabled, a routing stop message is multicast to all terminals and another router in a LAN. If another router can provide the routing function, a routing start message is multicast to all terminals and the other router in the LAN. This method allows the terminals in the LAN to switch the default router at a predetermined timing according to both messages, thus minimizing the default router switching delay time and the packet loss.